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Executive Summary
8-4897

20 July 1956

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the Director  
for Planning and Coordination

THROUGH: Deputy Director/Intelligence *NDL*

SUBJECT: Progress Report on ORR Participation in  
Symmetric Analysis

REFERENCE: Memorandum from SA/PC/DCI to AD/RR, dated  
28 June 1956

1. The referenced memorandum requested this Office to report actions taken up to 30 June 1956, and subsequent to our report of 13 March 1956 on the same subject.

*CIA*  
2. ORR has continued to distribute its commodity and sector analyses of the Sino-Soviet Bloc economies to the Air Force for incorporation in whatever models AFOIN or its contractors develop.

2. NSC 5605, approved 24 May 1956, established procedures for providing integrated evaluations of the net capabilities of the USSR in the event of general war. More specifically, it states that while a general estimate should be made of the over-all effects of the U.S. attacks against the USSR, it is not expected or anticipated that detailed analyses will be undertaken. This directive supersedes NSC 5511 as guidance for these evaluations and apparently cancels the need for the kind of detailed data which would be provided by symmetric analysis.

3. The broad effectiveness of present nuclear weapons systems has appeared to make obsolete the construction of elaborate and detailed analyses of potentially hostile economies for purposes of post-attack damage assessment. Sufficiently accurate answers can be supplied far more easily by less elaborate means.

*CIA*  
4. For these reasons, ORR proposes to take no further action.

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OTTO E. GUTH  
Assistant Director  
Research and Reports

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